

**Amendments to the Claims:**

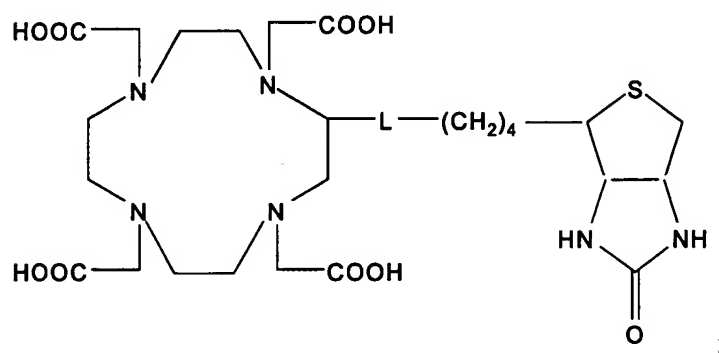
Please amend claims 18 and 19 as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

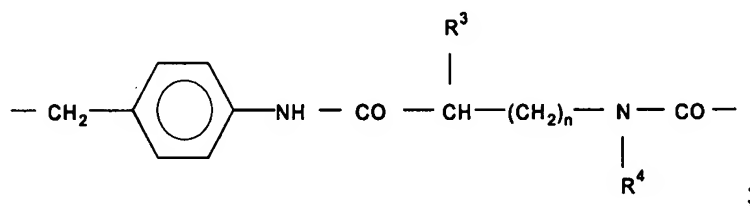
**Listing of Claims:**

1.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) A biotin-DOTA conjugate of the following formula:



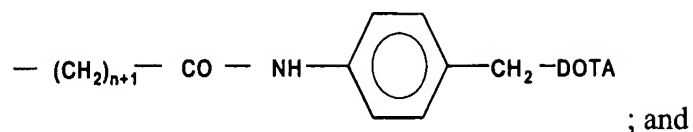
wherein L is a linker of the formula



wherein

$R^3$  is hydrogen; an amine; lower alkyl; a hydroxy-, sulfate- or phosphonate-substituted lower alkyl; a glucuronide; or a glucuronide-derivatized amino acid;

$R^4$  is hydrogen, lower alkyl or



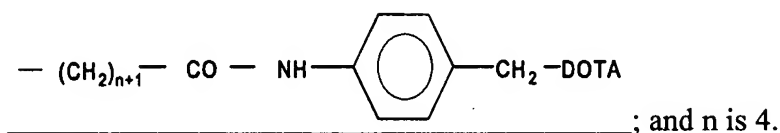
n ranges from 0-4, wherein  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  cannot both be hydrogen.

17. (Original) A biotin-DOTA conjugate according to claim 16 wherein  $\text{R}^4$  is lower alkyl.

18. (Currently Amended) A biotin-DOTA conjugate according to claim 16 wherein

$\text{R}^3$  is hydrogen;

$\text{R}^4$  is  $\text{CH}_3$  or



19. (Currently Amended) A biotin-DOTA conjugate according to claim 16 wherein

$\text{R}^3$  is hydrogen;

$\text{R}^4$  is  $\text{CH}_3$  or

